

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:XGDS-2

TAGS:MNUC, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS ARTICLE ON ROK NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION

REF: SEOUL 2469

1. NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE MENTIONED REFTEL REPORTED APRIL 9 CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ARMS CONTROL ASSOCIATION TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION PROBLEM. CONFERENCE WAS ADDRESSED, INTER ALIA, BY SENATOR KENNEDY AND ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE. LATTER CORRECTLY QUOTED IN ARTICLE AS SAYING QUOTE NOW WE SUSPECT THAT THE INTENT TO MAKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS EXISTS IN SEVERAL PLACES EVEN THOUGH THE CAPABILITY IS NOT YET THERE. UNQUOTE ARTICLE SAYS QUOTE IT WAS AUTHORITATIVELY LEARNED UNQUOTE THAT ROK AND SIX OTHERS ARE COUNTRIES IN THIS CATEGORY, BUT DOES NOT OTHERWISE IDENTIFY SOURCE OF THIS STATEMENT. ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS SAYING IAEA INVOLVED IN FRENCH-KOREAN NEGOTIATIONS FOR SALE OF REPROCESSING PLANT. COPY POUCHED EMBASSY APRIL 10.

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2. WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW IDENTITY OF SOURCES MENTIONED IN
ARTICLE, IT IS APPARENT THAT KOREAN EFFORT TO PURCHASE
REPROCESSING PLANT IS NOW WELL-KNOWN AND WE EXPECT CONGRESS
AND OTHERS HERE TO TAKE INCREASING INTEREST IN ROK NUCLEAR
INTENTIONS.

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Message Attributes

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